

FAMILY VIOLENCE, FAMILY CONFLICT AND FAMILY SEPARATION

Some children live in homes where a parent is abused by a spouse or boyfriend/girlfriend. The number of domestic-related calls received by the police decreased slightly in 2003 after rising for two years. Other children experience the stress caused by parents who are divorcing or are separated. The number of parents participating in the "Living Apart...Parenting Together" class, required for all parents filing custody or visitation petitions in the 12th District Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court, decreased in FY 2002-03.

The Virginia Department of Social Services has implemented a new system for handling child abuse and neglect complaints that has changed the way complaints are handled and statistics calculated.

Children may be separated from their families for a variety of reasons. They may have been removed from their homes because of abuse or neglect and are currently living with foster parents, they may be in foster care for other reasons, or they may be living in residential treatment facilities on a short- or long-term basis due to emotional, behavioral or educational problems.

Chesterfield's foster-care rate (the average daily rate of children 0 to 17 years old living in state-supervised, family-based foster care per 1,000 children) is one-third the state rate.

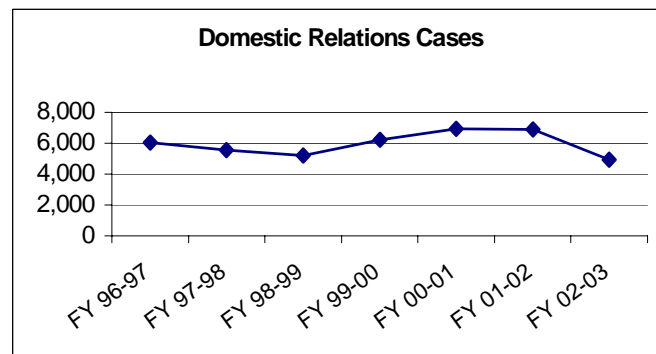
Domestic Relations Cases*

	FY 96-97	FY 97-98	FY 98-99	FY 99-00	FY 00-01	FY 01-02	FY 02-03
Domestic relations cases	6,027	5,555	5,183	6,217	6,953	6,873	4,918**

Source: Twelfth District Court Services Unit

* The Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court handles all domestic-relations cases, including child custody, visitation, child support and spousal abuse.

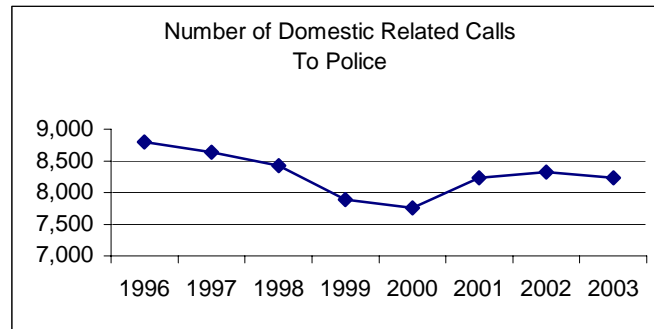
** Beginning FY 2002-03, Domestic Intake no longer conducted mediations or diverted cases from court. All custody requests are now petitioned to court. This has resulted in a significant decrease in domestic intake numbers.



Domestic-Related Calls to Police

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Number of domestic related calls	8,799	8,639	8,420	7,884	7,757	8,237	8,324	8,229

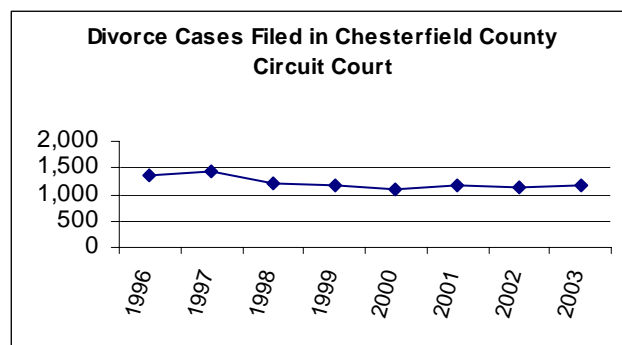
Source: Chesterfield County Police Department



Divorce Cases Filed in Chesterfield County Circuit Court

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Filings for divorce	1,371	1,443	1,199	1,175	1,098	1,151	1,138	1,152

Source: Supreme Court of Virginia, Circuit Court Caseload Reporting System

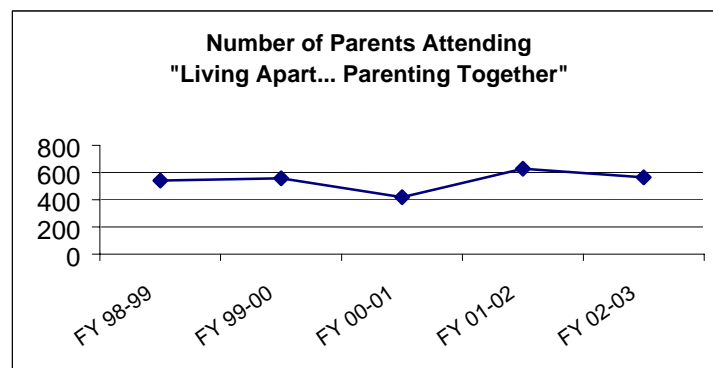


Parents Attending "Living Apart...Parenting Together"*

	FY 98-99	FY 99-00	FY 00-01	FY 01-02	FY 02-03
Number of parents attending	542	558	419	628	565

Source: Twelfth District Court Service Unit

* "Living Apart...Parenting Together" is an educational program designed to teach effective parenting during transitions of divorce or parental separations. Every citizen who files a custody/visitation petition in the 12th District Court Service Unit (Chesterfield County and Colonial Heights) is court ordered to enroll in the program.



Child Abuse and Neglect* Chesterfield County

	FY 96-97	FY 97-98	FY 98-99	FY 99-00	FY 00-01	FY 01-02	FY 02-03*
No. of complaints investigated	845	897	834	900	829	881	
No. of founded complaints	243	235	193	276	282	247	
Child fatalities from abuse	2	1	0	0	1	0	1

Source: Virginia Department of Social Services, Child Protective Service

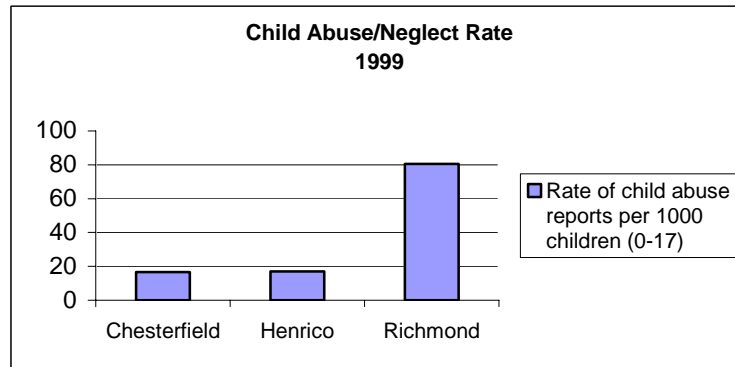
During FY 02-03, the Virginia Department of Social Services implemented a new system for handling valid complaints of child abuse and neglect. Called the differential response system, it separates valid complaints that have been accepted for response into two categories: complaints that are investigated and those that receive a family assessment.

According to the Chesterfield/Colonial Heights Department of Social Services, of 2,312 reports of suspected child abuse/neglect in FY 02-03, 1,026 were deemed valid and accepted for response. About 75-80% of valid cases were referred for family assessment and 20-25% were investigated. Approximately one-half of those investigated were found to be founded complaints. Because the number of complaints investigated is much lower than previously, FY 02-03 statistics cannot be compared to previous fiscal year statistics.

Child Abuse/Neglect Rate 1999

	Chesterfield	Henrico	Richmond
Rate of child-abuse reports per 1000 children (0-17)	16.6	16.9	80.6

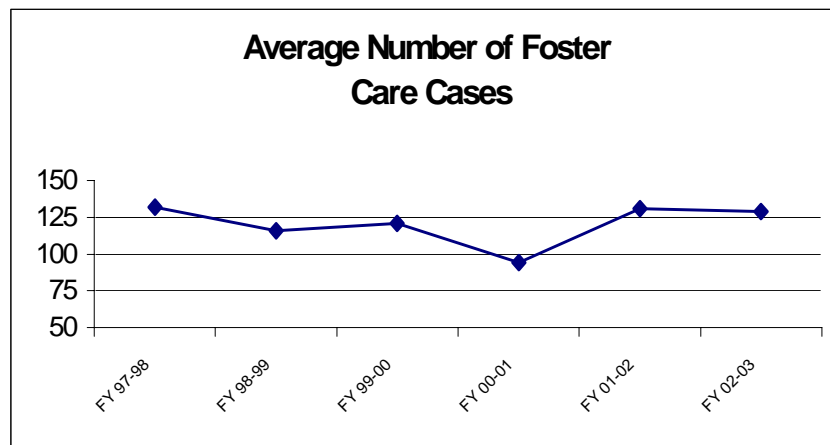
Source: Virginia Prevention Needs Assessment Social Indicator Database



Children in Foster Care

	FY 97-98	FY 98-99	FY 99-00	FY 00-01	FY 01-02	FY 02-03
Average number of foster-care cases	132	116	121	94	131	129

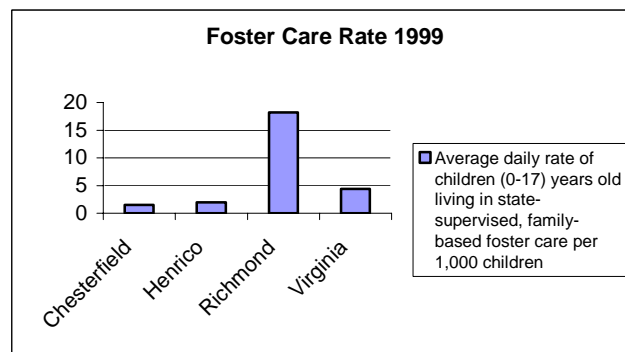
Source: Chesterfield County Department of Social Services



Foster Care Rate 2000

	Chesterfield	Henrico	Richmond	Virginia
Average daily rate of children 0-17 years old living in state-supervised, family-based foster care per 1,000 children	1.51	1.95	18.23	4.39

Source: Virginia Prevention Needs Assessment Social Indicator Database



Interagency Services

	FY 96-97	FY 97-98	FY 98-99	FY 99-00	FY 00-01	FY 01-02	FY 02-03
Total clients served by interagency services	250	196	184	188	193	204	224
Clients in residential treatment facilities**	53	47	31	60	68	66	93

Source: Chesterfield Interagency Services

*Interagency Services serves youths with serious emotional or behavioral problems and youths needing foster care.

**Includes therapeutic foster care, group homes and residential placements (including for special education)

